

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A method for processing an expense receipt comprising the steps of:
 - 2 receiving on a computer processor an electronic image of the expense receipt;
 - 3 processing the electronic image to obtain expense data;
 - 4 populating an electronic expense report with the expense data; and
 - 5 displaying the electronic expense report.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of creating an electronic image is
2 performed by a scanner, digital camera, facsimile machine, personal digital assistant camera,
3 telephone camera or communicator camera.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer processor is a mainframe computer,
2 computer server, desktop computer, laptop computer, personal digital assistant, telephone, or
3 communicator.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of storing the electronic image
2 in non-volatile memory.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of processing the electronic image is
2 further comprised of the steps of:
 - 3 using character recognition software to obtain text data from the electronic image;
 - 4 parsing the text data to search for expense data.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of displaying the electronic expense
2 report is performed with a web browser or a specialized viewer.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense data is date of expense, expense
2 amount, vendor name, payment method or vendor address.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving additional data;
3 modifying the electronic expense report with the additional data;
4 displaying the modified electronic expense report; and
5 storing the modified expense report in non-volatile memory.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the additional data is approval signature,
2 corrected expense data or additional expense data.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the additional expense data is comprised of
2 expense allocation to cost center, identifier for person incurring expense, identifier for trip, notes,
3 car miles, or expenses for which there are no receipts.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the additional expense data is electronic data
2 received from a second computer processor.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense report contains expense data from a
2 plurality of expense receipts.

1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of encrypting the electronic
2 image.

1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of encrypting the expense
2 report.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer applies a set of expense rules to the
2 expense data.

1 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transferring the expense
2 report to an accounting system.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense report and the electronic image are
2 stored on separate computer systems and are linked by a common identifier.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense report and receipt image are
2 displayed simultaneously.

1 19. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense report, a list of scanned receipts, and
2 receipt image are displayed simultaneously.

1 20. The method of claim 1 wherein the expense report is a list of scanned receipts.

1 21. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of checking for duplicate
2 receipts.

1 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer processor is accessed remotely via a
2 computer network.

1 23. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer
2 system to perform a method for storing an expense receipt comprising the steps of:
3 receiving on a computer processor an electronic image of the expense receipt;
4 processing the electronic image to obtain expense data;
5 populating an electronic expense report with the expense data; and
6 displaying the electronic expense report.

1 24. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the step of creating an
2 electronic image is performed by a scanner, digital camera, facsimile machine, personal digital
3 assistant camera, telephone camera or communicator camera.

1 25. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the computer processor is a
2 mainframe computer, computer server, desktop computer, laptop computer, personal digital
3 assistant, telephone, or communicator.

1 26. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the method if further
2 comprised of the step of storing the electronic image in non-volatile memory.

1 27. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the step of processing the
2 electronic image is further comprised of the steps of:
3 using character recognition software to obtain text data from the electronic image;
4 parsing the text data to search for expense data.

1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the step of displaying the
2 electronic expense report is performed with a web browser or a specialized viewer.

1 29. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense data is
2 comprised of date of expense, expense amount, vendor name, payment method or vendor
3 address.

1 30. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the method further comprises the
2 steps of:

3 receiving additional data;
4 modifying the electronic expense report with the additional data;
5 displaying the modified electronic expense report; and
6 storing the modified expense report in non-volatile memory.

1 31. The computer readable medium of claim 30 wherein the additional data is
2 approval signature, corrected expense data or additional expense data.

1 32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein the additional expense data
2 is expense allocation to cost center, identifier for person incurring expense, identifier for trip,
3 notes, car miles, or expenses for which there are no receipts.

1 33. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein the additional expense data
2 is electronic data received from a second computer processor.

1 34. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense report contains
2 expense data from a plurality of expense receipts.

1 35. The computer readable medium of claim 23 further comprising the step of
2 encrypting the electronic image.

1 36. The computer readable medium of claim 23 further comprising the step of
2 encrypting the expense report.

1 37. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the computer applies a set of
2 expense rules to the expense data.

1 38. The computer readable medium of claim 23 further comprising the step of
2 transferring the expense report to an accounting system.

1 39. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense report and the
2 electronic image are stored on separate computer systems and are linked by a common identifier.

1 40. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense report and
2 receipt image are displayed simultaneously.

1 41. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense report, a list of
2 scanned receipts, and receipt image are displayed simultaneously.

1 42. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the expense report is a list of
2 scanned receipts.

1 43. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the method is further
2 comprised of the step of checking for duplicate receipts.

1 44. The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the computer processor is
2 accessed remotely via a computer network

1 45. A system for processing an expense receipt comprised of:

2 a receipt image input device for creating an electronic image of the input device;

3 a computer processor in communication with the receipt

4 a software module operating on the computer processor for processing the electronic

5 image to obtain expense data;

6 a software module operating on the computer processor for filling in an expense report

7 with the expense data; and

8 a display in communication with the computer on which the expense report is displayed.

1 46. The system of claim 45 further comprised of non-volatile memory in

2 communication with the computer processor memory for storing the expense report.

1 47. The system of claim 45 wherein the device for creating an electronic image is

2 performed by a scanner, digital camera, facsimile machine, personal digital assistant camera,

3 telephone camera or communicator camera.

1 48. The system of claim 45 wherein the computer processor is a mainframe computer,

2 computer server, desktop computer, laptop computer, personal digital assistant or telephone.

1 49. The system of claim 45 wherein the software module for processing the electronic

2 image is further comprised of:

3 a character recognition software module to obtain text data from the electronic image;

4 a parsing software module for parsing the text data to search for expense data.

1 50. The system of claim 45 wherein display is comprised of a web browser or a

2 specialized viewer.

1 51. The system of claim 45 wherein the expense data is comprised of date of expense,
2 expense amount, vendor name, payment method or vendor address.

1 52. The system of claim 45 further comprising a second input device for receiving
2 additional data to modify the expense report.

1 53. The system of claim 1 wherein the additional data is approval signature, corrected
2 expense data or additional expense data.

1 54. The system of claim 53 wherein the additional expense data is comprised of
2 expense allocation to cost center, identifier for person incurring expense, identifier for trip, notes,
3 car miles, or expenses for which there are no receipts.

1 55. The system of claim 53 wherein the additional expense data is electronic data
2 from a second computer processor.

1 56. The system of claim 45 further comprising a software module operating on the
2 computer processor for encrypting the electronic image.

1 57. The system of claim 45 further comprising a software module for applying a set
2 of expense rules to the expense data and expense report.

1 58. The system of claim 45 wherein the expense report and the electronic image are
2 stored on separate computer systems and are linked by a common identifier.

1 59. The system of claim 45 wherein the expense report and receipt image are
2 displayed simultaneously.

1 60. The system of claim 45 wherein the expense report, a list of scanned receipts, and
2 receipt image are displayed simultaneously.

1 61. The system of claim 45 wherein the expense report is a list of scanned receipts.

1 62. The system of claim 45 further comprising further comprising a software module
2 to check for duplicate receipts.

1 63. The system of claim 45 wherein said system is accessed remotely via a computer
2 network.